

2nd Samuel Chapter 13

Malachi 2:2 “²If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto My name, saith the Lord of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart.”

- David had set the stage for palace intrigue long before his sin with Bathsheba through his marrying several wives – part of reaping what he’s sown.
 - David had been blessed with many sons, sons are a blessing. But we will see as God will take some of those blessings and turn them into curses.
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V: 1-2 Absalom = “Father of Peace”, Tamar = “Date Palm”, Amnon = “Trustworthy”.

- Not sure about Tamar, but neither of these sons of David lived up to their names.
- We begin to see the fulfillment of the prophesy of Nathan, the chastening of the Lord in David’s life.

2 Samuel 12:10 “Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised Me...”

- Amnon “loved” Tamar; actually he lusted after Tamar, he loved her in a very selfish way, not sacrificially, true love is other’s centered. The best of example of this is God’s love for us:

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave...”

- If Amnon truly loved Tamar he would have been looking out for her interests, he would have tried to protect her, and her reputation – but he does none of these things; he’s only trying to satisfy his own selfish lust.
- Stating that she was a virgin wasn’t just a description of her physical state, it was a statement about her availability – she was housed and guarded in a separate part of the palace to ensure her being a virgin until marriage.
- He made himself sick over his ½ sister – which is foolish even to begin with. He’s following in his father’s foot steps demonstrating his lack of self control.

Leviticus 18:9-11 “⁹The nakedness of thy sister, the daughter of thy father, or daughter of thy mother, whether she be born at home, or born abroad, even their nakedness thou shalt not uncover. ¹⁰The nakedness of thy son’s daughter, or of thy daughter’s daughter, even their nakedness thou shalt not uncover: for theirs is thine own nakedness. ¹¹The nakedness of thy father’s wife’s daughter, begotten of thy father, she is thy sister, thou shalt not uncover her nakedness.”

- God told David that he had despised the commandment of the Lord, and that this equated to despising God Himself. Whenever we or in this case Amnon sins we have to step over and ignore God's word to do it, despising God's word in the process, which means despising Him.

Deuteronomy 27:22 "Cursed be he that lieth with his sister, the daughter of his father, or the daughter of his mother. And all the people say amen."

V: 3-5 Amnon's "friend" wasn't much of a friend.

- Jonadab is Amnon's cousin, David's nephew and he's "subtle", "crafty" – very much like the serpent in the Garden of Eden
- Why are you lean... What is your problem?
- He was pouting, acting all depressed – just waiting for a sympathetic ear – Mr. Woo woo...
- What's the matter: "I love Tamar" (No he doesn't!)

1 Corinthians 13:4 ⁴Love is patient, love is kind, doesn't envy, is not puffed up. ⁵Does not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own..."

- *Lust is impatient, lust is cruel, it covets, behaves poorly, and seeks after it's own.*
- Jonadab is a bad friend, he encourages and guides Amnon to sin which leads to his death. He lays out a crafty plan to use David to send Tamar to Amnon's bed.

1 Corinthians 15:33 "Be not deceived: evil communications (bad company) corrupt good manners."

James 1:14-15 ¹⁴But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. ¹⁵Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

V: 6-7 Amnon puts his plan into motion, using David to get what he wanted.

- David was un-discerning in this issue, he didn't ask what might have been appropriate questions.
- David is sending Tamar from a place of safety and protection to a place of Danger.

V: 8-11 Tamar is obedient to her father, and she's innocent, not realizing that she's falling into a trap – trusting both her father and her brother.

- Tamar arrives at Amnon's house, cooks the meal for him – then Amnon has all the servants / witnesses leave – that might have been a clue for Tamar.

- She doesn't get what's up, now he wants her to serve him breakfast in bed – which she does – and having lured her that far springs the trap, and takes hold of her.

V: 12-14 Tamar pleads with Amnon: Do not force me... this is beneath an Israelite, this is wrong – do not this folly, don't be foolish.

- Think about what you're doing to me – you will bring shame upon me.
- You will be considered a fool, someone who can't control themselves.
- "Talk to our father", an attempt at stalling and notifying her father as to what is going on.
- Tamar is expressing her feelings, which Amnon is completely ignoring – he is only thinking about himself and his selfish desires.
- This is what lust does, it ignores the warnings, it blocks out what is being said by a concerned parent, friend, or pastor.
- He would not listen to reason and forced her, he raped her.

Deuteronomy 22:28-29 ²⁸If a man find a damsel that is a virgin, which is not betrothed, and lay hold on her, and lie with her, and they be found; ²⁹Then the man that lay with her shall give unto the damsel's father fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife; because he hath humbled her, he may not put her away all his days."

V: 15-18 Then Amnon hated her – this wasn't about "love" it was about self-gratification, it was about conquest and unbridled lust.

- Now he hated her more than he ever loved her and he treated her disgracefully and threw her out to fend for herself. (*"woman" / thing*)
- Sadly this is a story that has been played out countless millions of times. The tactic isn't always force, superior strength – more often it's flattery and attentiveness, it's false promises, and subtlety – no one that really loves a girl will pressure her or force her to commit sin, true love will wait for marriage.

1 Corinthians 13:4 ⁴Love is patient, love is kind, doesn't envy, is not puffed up. ⁵Does not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own..."

V: 19-20 The virgin daughters of the king all wore a distinctive colorful garments that identified them as a princess, a daughter of the king.

- Tamar tore her garment in grief because she was no longer a virgin, she put ashes upon her head, and went out crying – decrying her situation.

- With Amnon refusing to marry her, she may well never be able to married to another because of the loss of her virginity – other men would not consider her suitable for marriage.
- Absalom, Tamar’s full brother asks the question: “**Hath Amnon thy brother been with thee?**” Isn’t that a strange question to ask? She’s grieving, robe torn – “What happened?” “Is dad ok?” “Did you stub your toe?” He asks a direct question specifically about Amnon. He either had prior suspicions, or he was told something by someone. There might be a snake in the house....
- When he figures it out or gets confirmation he tells her to hold her peace meaning not tell anyone and not to worry about it – which doesn’t sound right.
- Absalom will use this occasion to kill Amnon; who just happens to be David’s oldest son and heir to the throne. Chiliab, born or Abigail was David’s second son but it would appear that he had already died – leaving Absalom next in line to the throne...
- Tamar remained desolate, deserted, barren in her brother’s house and is never heard from again.

V: 21-22 David finds out about what happened, he’s angry, but he does nothing.

- There are sins of commission; things that we do, actions we take, and there are sins of omission; things we fail to do that we should do.
- David commits the sin of omission in that he should have addressed this situation with Amnon and Tamar, at the least he should have intervened for his daughter’s sake.
- David may have felt in-adequate or hypocritical to punish his son for sins that he too has committed we don’t really know.
- Some parents take it to the point of who am I to tell my teenage kids what to do or not to do – especially when I did the same things: As their parent, we are the ones who are supposed to guide them around these things, to correct them and instruct them – being a parent is not a passive role, and it takes courage.

Deuteronomy 18:29 “**For whosoever shall commit any of these abominations, even the souls that commit them shall be cut off from among their people.**”

- David had committed two capital crimes, adultery and murder, and God had not applied the Law to him. (The difference was that David repented and asked forgiveness).
- Repentance is about a change in direction, it’s about doing the right thing – here and now, in the present – not allowing our past to keep us from doing the right thing.

Micah 6:8 “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doeth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.”

- Absalom doesn't let on, but on the inside he's cultivating a root of bitterness that will eventually manifest itself in murder.

Hebrews 12:15 “Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.”

V: 23-27 Two years have gone by and apparently king David has done nothing, taking a passive stance with his children.

- Absalom has been stewing for two years looking for revenge.
- Absalom invites David and his brothers to a sheep shearing festival.
- David refused the invitation but allows all the other sons to attend.
- As we've read through this story, would Absalom have murdered his brother in front of David? Was it an attempt to assassinate the king as well?

V: 28-29 Absalom instructs his servants to wait until Amnon is unsuspecting and drunken with wine, then kill him, which they do.

Romans 6:23 “The wages of sin is death...”

James 1:14-15 “¹⁴But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. ¹⁵Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

- As soon as the servants pounced upon Amnon, all the other sons of David, ½ brothers to Absalom fled the scene on their mules.
- **Baal-Hazor** of Ephraim is about 8 miles North of Jerusalem, the other sons don't know the extent of Absalom's murderous plans and they flee back to Jerusalem and safety.

V: 30-31 Word came that all the kings sons were dead, murdered by Absalom.

- David arose and tore his garments and began to grieve; he believed this first incorrect report.
- Perhaps he thought it to be part of God's judgment upon him, expecting something to happen, just not sure when or how.

V: 32-33 Thus enters the serpent / Jonadab: Only Amnon is dead; a process that started with the rape of his sister.

- How did Jonadab know that only Amnon was dead? This is a fact that is not revealed until the following verses, how did Jonadab know?
- Here we see him playing both sides of the fence, just as he helped Amnon get what he wanted, he probably helped Absalom get what he wanted as well – Jonadab probably helped Absalom plan out this murderous plot – and may have tried to include David in it.

Proverbs 6:16-19 “¹⁶These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him: ¹⁷A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, ¹⁹A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”

V: 34-36 Absalom fled one way, and all the other brothers fled another. The watchman saw the other brothers running for home.

- Jonadab seeking to ingratiate himself to the king, look it’s just as I said.

V: 37-39 Absalom flees to his mother’s father’s kingdom, with his uncle on the throne.

- He finds refuge there for three years.
- David and the kingdom mourn the loss of Amnon, and he longs to go forth unto Absalom as he gets over the death of Amnon.
- David longing to go forth to Absalom is or can be taken two ways: Lonely for Absalom, or longing to go and correct the situation – going to him to punish him.

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- The Bible gives us several warnings to keep us from these sins:

1 Peter 2:11 “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;”

2 Timothy 2:22 “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

- Herein lies the difference:
- We are either governed by the Spirit or we’re governed by the flesh.
 1. When we were living our lives apart from salvation, apart from the Holy Spirit living in us we were slaves to sin. The body, the flesh controlled the soul, our thoughts and desires.
 2. In Genesis Ch. 2 – God formed man out of the dust of the ground, but man wasn’t alive until God breathed life into him and he became a living soul.

3. He was complete; body, soul, and Spirit. In the garden, initially, it was the Spirit that controlled man. The soul was in subjection to the spirit, the body in subjection to the soul – until man rebelled against God.
4. God said if you eat of that fruit you shall surely die; man died spiritually. The soul is always in the middle.
5. In our unsaved state; the body, the flesh controls the soul.
6. But when a man is born again, the Spirit of God comes into a man, and is once again in control of the soul. This is when the battle begins, the flesh wants to be in charge and to control, and the battle rages until we go home to be with the Lord.

Galatians 5:16 “This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

Romans 8:13-14 “¹³For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. ¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”